

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2069

To permit the leasing of mineral rights, in any case in which the Indian owners of an allotment that is located within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and held in trust by the United States have executed leases to more than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that allotment.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 1998

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To permit the leasing of mineral rights, in any case in which the Indian owners of an allotment that is located within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and held in trust by the United States have executed leases to more than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that allotment.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. LEASES OF ALLOTTED LANDS OF THE FORT**  
4                       **BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION.**

5               (a) IN GENERAL.—

1           (1) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF THE INTE-  
2       RIOR.—

3           (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
4       other provision of law (including the Act of  
5       March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25  
6       U.S.C. 396) and the regulations issued under  
7       that Act), the Secretary of the Interior or a  
8       designee of the Secretary may approve mineral  
9       leases of an allotment described in paragraph  
10      (2) in any case in which the Indian owners of  
11      that allotment have executed leases to more  
12      than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that al-  
13      lotment.

14          (B) BENEFITS OF LEASES.—At such time  
15      as mineral leases on an allotment have been ap-  
16      proved for all Indian ownership interests pursu-  
17      ant to this section, all Indian owners of the al-  
18      lotment shall be entitled to the benefits of the  
19      leases.

20          (2) ALLOTMENT.—An allotment described in  
21      this paragraph is an allotment that—

22           (A) is located in the Fort Berthold Indian  
23      Reservation, North Dakota; and

24           (B) is held in trust by the United States.

1       (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This Act supersedes  
2 the Act of March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25  
3 U.S.C. 396) only to the extent provided in subsection (a).

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